

AFNS Review

Compiled from the Air Force News Service

Jan. 12, 1998

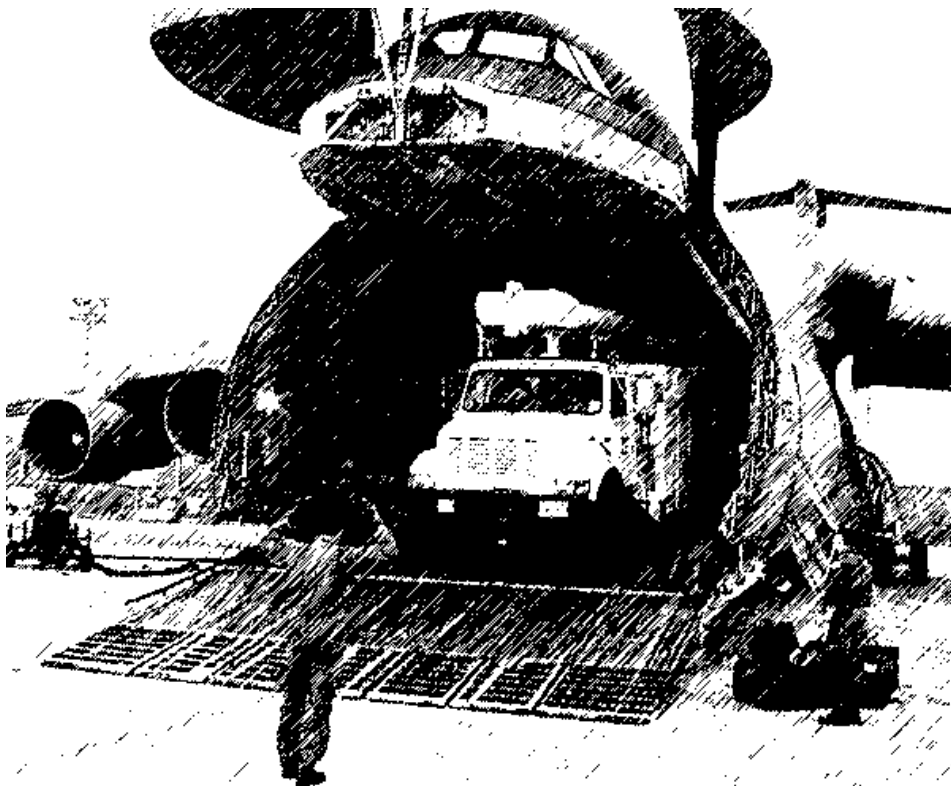
Officials back up Brown crash findings

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980005) — Air Force officials have joined the White House to denounce reports of foul play in the death of Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown. The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology stands by its findings that Brown died as a result of injuries suffered in the crash of an Air Force CT-43 aircraft April 3, 1996 in Croatia.

"Based on my personal examination and the forensic evidence, I am convinced that he died of injuries sustained during the mishap," said Col. (Dr.) William T. Gormley, assistant armed forces medical examiner. "Due to the initial appearance of Brown's injuries, we carefully considered the possibility of a gun shot wound. However, scientific data, including X-rays, ruled out that possibility."

"The alleged 'bullet fragments' were actually caused by a defect in the reusable X-ray film cassette," Gormley explained. Medical examiners took multiple X-rays using multiple cassettes and confirmed this finding.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry has also refused to give any credence to allegations that Brown might have been shot, as reported in some news reports.



"The Pentagon, I think, has very thoroughly and in very gruesome detail, and no doubt in ways painful to the Brown family, addressed this issue. And it's time to knock this stuff off," McCurry said at a press briefing. "I'm not going to talk about this further or take any further questions on the subject."

more than two miles.

The latest flights include Air Force C-5 Galaxies ferrying California Southern Edison power crews and bucket trucks to hasten Guam's recovery from the typhoon that struck here Dec. 16, plunging the entire island into darkness. It is estimated that only 30 percent of the island has electrical power.

It brings to 45 the number of Paka-related flights and more than 2.7-million pounds of cargo delivered to Guam in aircraft such as C-5s, C-130s, KC-135s, C-141s and a civilian-contracted 747. A majority are Air Mobility Command aircraft that carried a wide variety of things such as generators, telephone poles, medical supplies, chain saws and cots for the estimated 1,700 people left homeless.

"When we see blankets or other relief supplies, we feel good about what we're doing. We're helping people," said Staff

Inside

PACAF units rush vaccines to Guam	2
Americans remains returned to families	3
Air Force TV News	6
Air Force names top pararescuers for 1997	7
Videophones give morale calls new look	9

Air Force airlifts 2.7 million pounds of relief supplies to Guam

by Staff Sgt. Orville Desjarlais
Pacific Air Forces News Service

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS - 980017) — The Air Force has airlifted more than 2.7 million pounds of Supertyphoon Paka relief supplies here as of Jan. 4.

If the supplies were all in 2-ton pickup trucks, they would stretch end-to-end for

Sgt. Daniel Northcutt, 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron air transportation specialist. "A lot of people think the military is about nothing but war. We're not here just for war. We're helping everybody on Guam."

So far, the airlift has operated smoothly, despite having a few twists, according to Capt. Nathan Mooney, 36th Logistics Support Flight commander.

"What makes this different than other airlifts is that we have to work a lot more with civilian agencies, such as FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the Red Cross," Mooney explained. "Military-to-military interaction is easy. We all do things the same way, but civilian agencies utilize different systems and procedures. Working with them is a growing process."

"But we're really happy with how things are going," Mooney said. "There's a lot of great communication between AMC, the 36th Wing, the Red Cross and FEMA."

At this isolated, out-of-the-way base in the middle of the Pacific, Andersen averages about three flights a day. During typhoon relief, missions have increased to sometimes six or seven a day.

"Our people haven't had a lot of time off," said Maj. Roger Sorrell, 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron aerial port flight commander. "This is our regular job, but due to the pace, we have a lot

more going on than normal. Many people worked right through Christmas."

"Since this started, we've worked 12 hours a day, sometimes longer. We just go home, get a good night's rest and hit it again the next day," Northcutt said.

Despite the fast pace and extended hours, Mooney said he's proud of Andersen peoples' performance. "We're happy because people really stepped up to the challenge. They all are going above and beyond. Our people put in some long hours, but they can see the end result. The motivating factor is that all the equipment we're hauling is being used to help people." (Courtesy PACAF News Service)

PACAF units rush vaccines to Guam disease control bureau

by Staff Sgt. Orville Desjarlais
Pacific Air Forces News Service

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS - 980018) — Guam immunization program director Ron Balajadia knew he had a serious problem the minute he entered his office 48 hours after Supertyphoon Paka tore into the island with reported 236-mph winds.

What he didn't know was the number of people spanning the Pacific who were willing to lend a helping hand.

With no electrical power in the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control building, the refrigeration units that keep vaccine between 36 degrees and 46 degrees hadn't worked since the storm laid waste to the island's electrical system Dec. 16.

At 72 degrees, more than 16,000 doses of vaccine were of no use to the island's 140,000 people who rely on the immunization program to keep them safe from disease — even more so for the Red Cross' estimate of 1,700 people left homeless in the typhoon's wake. Some are in cramped living conditions in public schools converted to emergency shelters.

"All diseases become a concern because the living arrangements are so crowded, which are conditions that may allow for disease to spread quickly," said Balajadia, who turned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help.

Now the problem was in the hands of

U.S. Public Health Service emergency coordinator Commander John Walmsley. He sent the request for vaccines to Perry Point, Maryland, the location of the U.S. Public Health Service Supply Depot. Public health employees there express mailed a batch of vaccines in a refrigerated container to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Since refrigerated containers need to be handled with care so their precious contents don't spoil, Tech. Sgt. John Sarver of the 15th Medical Group at Hickam picked up the vaccine and personally carried it to an awaiting civilian-contracted 747 aircraft.

The plane wasn't waiting there especially for the vaccine, other emergency items such as medical supplies, Red Cross kits and cots, were also being airlifted to Guam on that particular aircraft. It just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

When the 747 landed here, 634th Air Mobility Support Squadron member Master Sgt. Patrick Fleishman used a wide-body elevator loader to off-load the container, then handed it over to the 36th Transportation Squadron.

Either Tech. Sgt. Donald Schaff or one of his nine-person staff in the cargo deployment function day shift then set the vaccine container in a holding area so they could complete the paperwork needed to account for the aircraft's cargo.

From there, the vaccine was handed over to Paul Finkenkeller, a Fort Worth, Wash., native who figures out the logistics for FEMA. A day prior to the plane landing, he notified Balajadia of his vaccine shipment and told him when and where to pick it up.

On Dec. 28, the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control had its vaccine, which had traveled more than 9,000 miles, passing through the helping hands of five people within nine days of the initial request. Through regular channels, it normally takes the immunization clinic three to four weeks to receive vaccines, according to Balajadia.

"Air Force support has been excellent," said Finkenkeller. "You couldn't have asked for a better place for a disaster: We're right next to a military installation, there's air capability, air

AFNS Review

Director of Public Affairs
Brig.Gen. Ronald T. Sconyers

Commander, AFNEWS
Col. Harold J. Smarkola Jr.

Director, Air Force Internal Information
B. Kim McDonald Jr.

AFNS Review is produced by the Director of Air Force Internal Information, Air Force News Agency (AFNEWS), for the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs. This publication is prepared weekly to bring to the attention of Secretariat and Air Staff members AFNS items of interest to them in their official capacities. AFNS is the official news service for Air Force base newspaper editors. Articles in this issue were previously made available to about 3 million customers via e-mail, Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil>) and Air Force newspapers. Editorial offices: AFNEWS/IOP, 203 Norton St., Kelly AFB, TX 78241-6105. Telephone (210)925-7564; DSN 945-7564, Fax (210) 925-7219; DSN 945-7219. For questions concerning Air Staff distribution, contact SAF/PAI, DSN 426-7832. Distribution: one copy for approximately 2-3 military and civilian personnel assigned to the Secretariat and Air Staff, Pentagon. Please pass this copy on to someone else who needs current Air Force news information.

cargo people and aside from that, the willingness these people and the wing commander have shown to help us has been great.” (Courtesy PACAF News Service)

Dormitories provide housing for families displaced by typhoon

by Capt. Catherine Reardon
36th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam (AFNS - 980002) — Liheng-Ta is the new name for several dormitories at the Andersen (Air Force Base) South housing area which will house several hundred families displaced by Typhoon Paka Dec. 16.

The families have been living in schools across the island, but they are now beginning to move into the Air Force dormitories.

“Much has been done to get these dorms ready,” said Bob Kelly, Government of Guam housing disaster officer. “It’s been a partnership between the Army and Air Guard, the Reserves and local contractors who have all come out to make the area safe and comfortable for our community left homeless from Paka.” Sheet rock walls were erected for privacy and safety barriers put along walkways and stairwells to keep small children out of danger.

The dorms are strictly emergency shelters for these families. They will be in use for only 4-6 weeks, according to Kelly.

During a tour of the facilities, Governor Carl Gutierrez commented on the untiring efforts of everyone involved in the project, especially the military personnel. “Our active duty, Guard and Reserve military folks deserve the accolades of the community for all they have done for the people of Guam. Without their efforts and those of the contractors who helped provide guidance and materials this project would never have been possible.”

According to Jordan Kaye, site coordinator for Liheng-Ta, approximately 700 families can fit into the dormitories. “Right now, we’re working some last minute health, safety and comfort issues for our residents.”

Kay went on to explain that a medical clinic will be set-up and bus schedules for

children returning to school Jan. 5 are in the works. Families will be provided laundry facilities and meals cooked by National Guard members. Each family who lives at Liheng-Ta will get cots, blankets, pillows, towels and soap.

“Everything within our power will be provided to our families,” said Kaye. “We want to make them feel comfortable and safe.”

“Liheng-Ta means a resting place on a long and difficult journey,” said Maj. Gen. John D. Dallager, 13th Air Force commander and Defense Coordinating Element officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency since the disaster. “The military, whether active duty, Guard or Reserve, is here to help and respond to the needs of our friends and community on Guam because this has definitely been a long hard journey and we are all on it together. We hope these dorms allow our friends to rest as they begin their journey back to recovery.”

President lauds Guard for airlift to stranded cattle

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980001) — Five Air National Guard C-130 Hercules aircraft are responding to a presidential call to support disaster response efforts in New Mexico. Aircrews are providing more than 50,000 pounds of feed to cattle stranded by recent blizzards in the southeast part of that state.

So far, more than 25,000 cattle have died because of the storms. Authorities estimate the loss of 1,000 head of cattle daily because ranchers cannot reach them in the fields.

President Clinton praised efforts of Air National Guard units from Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming as they moved swiftly into action Dec. 30. They are supporting a request from Gov. Gary Johnson of New Mexico to help Guard units already at work alleviating human suffering in those counties most severely affected by the snowstorm.

“I am pleased that the Air National Guard has responded so promptly to this difficult situation,” Clinton said. “It is performing an important mission for many New Mexicans in their time of need.”

The 137th Airlift Wing from Oklahoma City is the lead unit supporting the mission with three aircraft and more than

50 people. Two more C-130s are from the 136th AW, Dallas, and the 153rd AW, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Operations began Dec. 30 and have been extended through Jan. 4.

Americans' remains returned to families

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980007) — The remains of three American servicemen previously unaccounted for from Southeast Asia have been identified and were returned to their families for burial in the United States.

Maj. Glenn A. Belcher, of Fessenden, N.D.; Maj. Ronald N. Sittner, of South Euclid, Ohio, both Air Force; and 1st Lt. Brent E. Davis, Marine Corps, of Santa Clara, Calif., were identified.

On Dec. 31, 1967, Belcher was leading an armed reconnaissance mission over Laos when others in his flight observed the A-1E Skyraider roll several times before striking the ground near an enemy gun position. A search of the area revealed no evidence to demonstrate that Belcher had survived the crash.

In 1994 and 1995, joint U.S.-Lao teams investigated a suspected crash site believed to be that of Belcher. The teams recovered several bone fragments, some personal effects, pilot related artifacts, and aircraft wreckage. The remains were subsequently identified as Belcher's.

On Aug. 23, 1967, Sittner and the aircraft commander were flying an F-4D Phantom on a strike mission over North Vietnam. Their aircraft was hit by air-to-air missiles and crashed over Thai Nguyen Province. The aircraft commander was captured by the Vietnamese and later released during Operation Homecoming in 1973.

Joint U.S.-Vietnamese teams investigated this incident three times between 1990 and 1992. Local villagers were able to accurately recall the shoot down and described finding the remains of a pilot hanging in a tree. They reportedly buried the body nearby. A team excavated a suspected burial site and found remains and crew-related items. The remains were determined to be those of Sittner.

On March 18, 1966, Davis and a crewmember were providing electronic countermeasures for an air strike over Nghe An Province, North Vietnam when his EF-10B Skynight exploded in midair. No contact with either man after the

explosion was ever established. The cause of the explosion remains unknown, however, it is probable that the aircraft was struck by an enemy surface-to-air missile.

In 1993, a joint U.S.-Vietnamese team traveled to Nghe An Province and interviewed local villagers who provided information on this incident. They reported that one American had ejected from the burning aircraft but his parachute failed to open. The other pilot was found dead at the crash site. A villager turned over to U.S. authorities remains he claimed to have recovered from the crash site.

In 1995 and 1997, U.S.-Vietnamese joint teams excavated the crash area and recovered suspected bone fragments and wreckage material. The suspected human remains are currently undergoing forensic analysis at the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii. Mitochondria DNA testing performed on the bone fragment turned over in 1993 confirmed the identification as that of Davis. His crewmate is still unaccounted for.

With the identification of these three servicemen, 2,099 Americans remain unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

New AFI establishes teams to deal with traumatic events

by Master Sgt. Anita Bailey
Office of the Surgeon General

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFNS - 980009) — A new Air Force instruction has been developed to help members and their families deal with traumatic events.

Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM, is now covered in AFI 44-153. The instruction becomes effective July 1. Teams are being established at all active-duty bases to provide preventive services to unit and community members before potentially traumatic events occur. These teams will also offer post-event assistance to people who help others who have experienced traumatic events.

"The Air Force always provided these services following events," said Lt. Col. Dick Newsome, chief of behavior sciences at Air Mobility Command and coordinator for the AFI. "Now we have a systematic, organized plan to provide both pre-



U.S. delivers KC-135 tankers to Turkey

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFNS - 980014) — The Turkish Air Force received three KC-135R tankers from the United States here Dec. 19.

The United States will deliver an additional four tankers by June to complete an agreement for the purchase of seven air refuelers.

A ceremony marking the event was attended by Lt. Gen. Cumher Asparuk, director of staff for the Turkish Air Force and other ranking military members from both the Turkish and U.S. air forces.

KC-135Rs extend the flying range of other aircraft by refueling them in midair. Remarking on the tanker's capabilities, Asparuk said, "We are the guardians of our democracy ... dedicated to regional peace and stability. With these tankers and our Turkish-built F-16s, we can defeat any threat at any time from anywhere."

Turkey covers an area of about 770,000 square kilometers, slightly larger than Texas. "Turkey's size requires that we have the ability to respond to any destination at a moment's notice," said Turkish Brig. Gen. Savas Sanliturk, the Incirlik installation commander. "These three tankers and the additional four we will receive will ensure we can do this."

The United States was leasing two KC-135s to Turkey prior to the sale. The two-year agreement also called for U.S. Air Force personnel to train their Turkish counterparts. As part of the arrangement, a technical assistance team from the 39th Wing's logistic support squadron helped train Turkish personnel who will maintain and operate the new fleet. The two leased aircraft were returned to the United States Dec. 10, following the expiration of the lease.

"The Turkish Air Force requested interim tanker support until its purchased KC-135s arrived," said David Parmely, security assistance program manager for U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"The lease program set a precedent in the foreign military sales arena, by providing a foreign country with training and familiarity of a major weapon system prior to the sale," Parmely added. (Courtesy USAFE News Service)

exposure and post-exposure services.

Events may include, but aren't limited to, experiences from wars, civil disasters and daily life stresses. These could also include deployments and operations other than war; aircraft accidents; natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods; acts of terrorism; combat; acts of violence, acts of abuse; and suicides and homicides.

The Centers for Disease Control offered the team concept as one of its recommendations to the Air Force's suicide prevention integrated process team, as a resource to help units cope with the effects on friends and co-workers when a member commits suicide. The Air Force expanded the idea to address any type of stressful event, Newsome said.

The Critical Incident Stress Teams, called CISTs, or individual team members may also assist in humanitarian responses meeting local, regional and national off-base needs as mission requirements permit.

"For example, a team is providing support to flood victims at Grand Folks (Air Force Base, N.D.)," Newsome said.

The CIST will assist local individuals and units prepare for and deal with traumatic events. The teams will use resources from both active duty and reserve forces. As a team established by the installation commander, activation of the CIST will be coordinated through the command post in the event of an anticipated or experienced traumatic event.

Also, deployable teams will be established by the wing commanders at Andrews AFB, Md.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Scott AFB, Ill.; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; and Lackland AFB, Texas. These teams will provide constant availability and assistance when the impact of a traumatic incident exceeds the capacity of locally available resources. These bases will be assigned regions for which they are responsible.

Deployable team for units in the Pacific will be established at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and the deployable team for units in Europe will be established at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The multidisciplinary teams will include, as a minimum, individuals in each of four roles:

— Medical — typically a primary care, family practice, or aerospace

medicine physician;

— Mental health — typically a psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, mental health nurse or 7-level mental health technician;

— Chaplain and Chaplain Service Support staff member; and

— Personnel representative — an enlisted ombudsman; a noncaregiver advocate for involved individuals who will bring the team expertise in military benefits, rights, military affairs, casualty affairs and personnel issues.

Additional members, depending on the type of traumatic event, could come from disaster response agencies, such as security police, firefighters, casualty affairs and mortuary affairs. Additionally, qualified Reserve members may augment CISTs where possible.

CIST members are trained in being able to help people effectively identify their stress reactions as normal under abnormal conditions, Newsome said. The CIST is trained to help people develop courses of action for both their own self-care and mission accomplishment under adverse conditions.

Volunteers from base units may provide peer support CISM services. Training for peer support volunteers includes additional skill development in peer counseling techniques, limitations of the CISM process, responsibilities and ethical considerations.

"We recognize the importance of stress factors on both military effectiveness and the well-being of our members," Newsome said. "The goal is to encourage people to understand the normal emotional and cognitive reactions to traumatic events and to promote effective coping with their exposure to the event."

"These teams will help us be more proactive."

Wilford Hall Psychiatry Department offers new insights to managers

by George Kelling

Wilford Hall Public Affairs

WILFORD HALL MEDICAL CENTER, Texas (AFNS - 980011) —

Change is in the air as the 20th Century draws to a close. The face of the military, American society, the very world order are in a state of flux.

Formal and informal groups attempt to cope with these changes, and all too often the groups themselves are ineffective. The psychiatry department at Wilford Hall Medical Center has an approach it is confident will help.

On Jan. 23, the department will sponsor a three-day conference titled "Leadership and Authority in Group and Organizational Life." Although sponsored by the mental health community, the conference is a far cry from the traditional image of the kindly psychiatrist and the patient on the couch.

"The conference is a response to the bare fact that organizations often simply can't do what they are supposed to do," explains Maj. (Dr.) John Bostwick, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and organizer of the conference.

"It is designed to look at how groups themselves function, and how the people in the groups can help or hurt the group in accomplishing its mission."

The conference alternates between large and small group sessions over its three days, with a consultant for each of the small groups. The consultant observes the group's function, provides insight and draws attention to what is happening in ways ranging from simple description to polite verbal shocks to point out inappropriate or off-course directions for the group.

Bostwick points out that, although there are surface similarities to other group training programs, the January course is unique. This course looks at the dynamics of the group itself, rather than the technique of solving specific problems. It is about structuring an otherwise chaotic situation, and making any group function better."

The small groups will provide a mix of genders, ages, jobs and ethnicities, recognizing that groups in the workplace, whether they be infantry squads or operating room teams, have the same diversity. Bostwick notes that the conference staff represents the same diversity, including, among others, a minority psychologist and a nurse who became a lawyer.

The question may remain, "What does this session do?" According to Bostwick, "the small groups react to a number of stimuli from the counselor, who also notes the dynamic emerging from the group."

As the often-stressful sessions follow one another, a number of unrecognized and unacknowledged personal agendas emerge, including fight-or-flight, pairing and dependence. Authority, responsibility and boundaries, all issues we in the military deal with daily, are important parts of the agenda." The outcome, he stresses, is greater awareness of how to make groups of all types function more effectively.

Bostwick hopes that a wide variety of people will attend the conference, both for their own increased effectiveness and to provide maximum diversity to the groups. "The conference is for virtually anyone who has to work with groups; middle managers, ministers, administrators, commanders; anyone who tries to understand why things groups are asked to do are not getting done."

The conference is paired with an Armed Forces Update in Psychiatry, which will be held Jan. 21 and 22. Anyone interested in the specifics of registering, or who would like more information about either conference, can call Bostwick's office at 210-292-7725 or 7729.

A participant in an earlier similar conference summed it up in an open letter. "It provides an opportunity to become more aware of unconscious group processes. When we are in groups we think and do lots of things that seem strange - because they are strange or, at least, irrational. At a conference we can begin to see what's really going on when people seat themselves at the head of the table or find themselves unable to make group decisions about even trivial things."

These kinks in the group process are all too familiar to all of us. The Leadership and Authority in Group and Organizational Life conference is designed to cope with at least some of them.

Air Force physician appointed to National Research Board

by George Kelling
Wilford Hall Public Affairs

WILFORD HALL MEDICAL CENTER, Texas (AFNS - 980012) — Medical research is one of Wilford Hall Medical Center's basic missions. With national research budgets in the millions, it is also big business.

Now showing: Jan. 12 Edition of Air Force TV News

KELLY AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS)—The latest edition of air Force Television News is the annual Year in Review, a look back at Air Force activities during 1997.

Produced each year, the special edition this year uses Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael Ryan's "one force, one team, one family" concept to show how the service is meeting its responsibilities worldwide. A highlight of the program is a tribute to the Air Force 50th anniversary with a special Living Heritage segment focusing on a typical Air Force family and its contribution to the service's half-century of existence.

Air Force Television News is a bi-weekly production of Air Force Internal Information. It is distributed on video tape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, as well as being seen on some 700 cable access outlets nationwide. Viewers can comment on the program by using the E-Mail address: afn@master.pa.af.mil.



The Department of Defense and the National Eye Advisory Council selected Lt. Col. (Dr.) William J. Flynn from Wilford Hall's Ophthalmology Staff to serve as DOD representative on the council. (The National Eye Advisory Council is a subsidiary of the National Institutes of Health, and has the duty of evaluating research grant requests.) A staff ophthalmologist, Flynn comes to the duties well qualified.

Col. Steve Waller, chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, notes that Flynn "is not only a board-certified ophthalmologist, but he is a doctor of optometry with a master's degree in vision science." His research background is equally sound; he published 10 articles

in national journals during his residency, and has completed a fellowship in glaucoma treatment. Flynn is honored, if somewhat awed, by the selection. He sees his appointment as a huge responsibility in forming the direction of vision research in the nation. He points out that the council's decisions will affect the state of vision science and research in the United States for years to come.

According to Flynn, the committee is composed of 10 professionals and meets three times per year to evaluate requests for new research projects and, to some extent, to oversee protocols in progress. He thinks that new looks at some of the causes of blindness, such as glaucoma and diabetes, will be of great importance for vision science research. Since Flynn is a graduate of the Wilford Hall ophthalmology program, Waller is gratified with the appointment.

"Lieutenant Colonel Flynn is qualified as both a physician and an optometrist, and has the scientific merit and integrity to go along with the breadth of vision this background provides. He passed his specialty boards with the highest score in the United States, and had a tour of duty as a research optometrist. He comes to the committee with excellent credentials," he explains. He sees the appointment as good for Wilford Hall and the department as well.

"Since he allocates and supervises research funds at the highest level, he will achieve invaluable insight into the skillful writing of research proposals," Waller said. Flynn will attend his first session in late January.

Wilford Hall merges transplant unit with University Hospital

WILFORD HALL MEDICAL CENTER, Texas (AFNS - 980016) —

The solid organ transplant program at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, has merged with the transplant program at University Hospital. Military personnel are now working alongside their civilian counterparts.

The kidney, pancreas, and liver transplant programs at the military medical center are being realigned to continue transplant services at the new

location. Wilford Hall began performing kidney transplants in 1963, followed by pancreas and liver transplants in 1988.

"This is the end of an era, but we live in a world of change, especially in the medical community," said Wilford Hall Commander Major General (Dr.) Paul K. Carlton Jr. "The merged program will be stronger than two independent programs, so the San Antonio area patients will be better served."

"Consolidation of Wilford Hall's program with that of University Hospital will provide our patients the same excellent quality of care they have grown to expect at Wilford Hall," Carlton said.

Air Force names top pararescuers for 1997

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS - 980021) — The Air Force recently recognized the 1997 Air Force Pararescue Airman, Noncommissioned Officer, and Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

The Pararescue Airman award winner is Senior Airman Patrick Van Meter, special tactics team member for the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Pararescue Noncommissioned Officer award winner is Tech. Sgt. Kenneth A. Knutson, pararescue craftsman for the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

The Pararescue Senior Noncommissioned Officer award winner is Master Sgt. Everett E. Evans, superintendent of training for the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron.

A pararescueman, or PJ, is an airman who conducts combat search and rescue of pilots and air crew members in combat environments, along with rescuing civilians too far out to sea for the Coast Guard and during natural disasters. Pararescuemen also work with other special operations teams, such as Navy SEALs, Army Rangers and Special Forces.

The award winners won both the Air Force Special Operations Command and Air Force level awards for their career fields.

Air Force awards Humanitarian Service Medal

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980003) — Air Force members who directly participated in

Operation Pacific Haven may be eligible for the Humanitarian Service Medal.

The secretary of defense recently approved the HSM for members of the United States armed forces who were assigned to Joint Task Force-Operation Pacific Haven during the period Sept. 15, 1996, to April 30, 1997, and provided direct humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish/Iraqi evacuees.

Only those members of the armed forces of the U.S. who were present at the time and directly participated in the operation are eligible for the HSM. Service members must have been assigned or attached by official orders to the operation for at least 10 days as specified by the on-site commander.

Specifically excluded from eligibility are members who were present on duty at the specified location, but did not make a direct contribution to or influence the action.

For more information about the HSM, contact your local military personnel flight's career enhancement section.

EQUAL list for overseas returnees out Jan. 13

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980004) — The latest Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing of available overseas returnee enlisted assignments becomes available at military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web home page Jan. 13.

This list includes assignments for people eligible to return from overseas in May through July 1998.

Personnel officials recommend assignment preferences be updated by Jan. 29 to ensure the information is updated in the computer system before actual assignments are made. Officials with AFPC here say assignments will be released on or about March 2.

EQUAL advertises upcoming assignment requirements by Air Force specialty code and rank, and gives people a chance to update their assignment preferences to more realistically match vacancies that will be filled in a particular cycle.

Local military personnel flights offer a publication entitled, "Enlisted Overseas Returnee Counseling Handout" which explains how to use EQUAL.

New listings are released quarterly for assignments available at overseas locations as well as assignments available for those returning from overseas areas. All special duty assignments appear on EQUAL-Plus and are updated weekly.

Military personnel flights and Commanders Support Staff (CSS) offices have copies of the listings and can help people update their preferences. People who are on temporary duty during the advertising period should contact the nearest personnel office for assistance.

People can access the list on the AFPC home page at <http://www.afpc.af.mil>; then click on the "enlisted" text. The list is also available through the Air Force's Home Page at <http://www.af.mil>, under "careers."

New general officer positions established for joint staff

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980022) — Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen established the positions of assistants to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard matters and Reserve matters Dec. 24. The two positions, each to be held by a major general or rear admiral, were required by the fiscal year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton has requested nominations for the positions through the service secretaries. The chairman will select the assistants for a term of two years, which may be extended for an additional term.

The service secretaries will make nominations for the Reserve position. Nominations for the National Guard position will be made by the states' governors through the chief of the National Guard Bureau and forwarded by the secretaries of the Army and Air Force. It is projected that both positions will be filled by spring 1998.

These full-time assistants will advise the chairman on National Guard and Reserve matters, will act as the chairman's personal liaison with their respective National Guard and Reserve service branches and associations and will participate when National Guard and Reserve issues are brought before defense forums such as the Joint Review Board.

The new positions support Cohen's recent guidance for the effective integration of the Reserve and active components into a "seamless total force" and ensures Reserve and National Guard participation in appropriate Joint Staff planning and resource forums.

Air Force promotes 42 colonels to brigadier general

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980006) — The following 42 colonels have been nominated by the president to the Senate for appointment to the grade of brigadier general:

Russell J. Anarde, commander, 91st Missile Wing, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Anthony W. Bell Jr., director of systems, Air Force Communications and Information Center, Pentagon.

Robert Damon Bishop Jr., deputy director of operations, U. S. Transportation Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

Marion E. Callender Jr., chief of staff, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, Neb.

Kevin P. Chilton, deputy manager of operations, International Space Station Program, Air Force Space Command, Houston.

Trudy H. Clark, commandant, Squadron Officer School, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Richard L. Comer, commander, 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Craig R. Cooning, director of contracting, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

John D. W. Corley, commander, 355th Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

David A. Deptula, senior Air Force representative, National Defense Panel, Air Force Headquarters, Arlington, Va.

Gary R. Dylewski, commander, 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.

Edward R. Ellis, commandant, Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools, Air University, Maxwell AFB.

Norman R. Flemens, commander, 19th Air Refueling Group, Robins AFB, Ga.

Leonard D. Fox, command civil engineer, Headquarters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Terry L. Gabreski, C-5 system

program director, San Antonio Air Logistics Center, Kelly AFB, Texas.

Jonathan S. Gration, commander, 39th Wing, Incirlik AB, Turkey.

Michael A. Hamel, military advisor to the vice president, Office of the Vice President, Washington.

William F. Hodgkins, director of operations, U.S. Forces Japan, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

John L. Hudson, deputy for aeronautical systems, Office of Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, Washington.

David L. Johnson, commander, 43rd Airlift Wing, Pope AFB, N.C.

Walter I. Jones, director of communications and information, Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB.

Daniel P. Leaf, commander, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw AFB, S.C.

Paul J. Lebras, director of intelligence, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB.

Richard B. H. Lewis, deputy director for operations, National Military Command Center, Washington.

Stephen P. Luebbert, chief, Command and Control Division, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany.

Dale W. Meyerrose, director of communications and information, Air Combat Command, Langley AFB.

David L. Moody, director, Inspections Office of the Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Washington.

Quentin L. Peterson, deputy director of Air Force operations and training, Washington.

Donald P. Pettit, deputy director of plans and programs, Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB, Colo.

Douglas J. Richardson, commander, 48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, England.

Ben T. Robinson, deputy director of command and control, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations, Washington.

John W. Rosa Jr., inspector general, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

Ronald F. Sams, military assistant to the director of defense technology security administration, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Arlington, Va.

Stanley A. Sieg, director of logistics,

Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB.

James B. Smith, vice director of operations, North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson AFB.

Joseph B. Sovey, program director, MILSATCOM Joint Program Office, El Segundo, Calif.

Lawrence H. Stevenson, commander, 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kan.

Robert P. Summers, deputy director of operations, Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB.

Peter U. Sutton, commander, 11th Wing, Office of the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, Bolling AFB, D.C.

Donald J. Wetekam, director of aircraft, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center, Tinker AFB, Okla.

William M. Wilson Jr. associate director of logistics resources, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, Pentagon.

Gary A. Winterberger, commander, 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin AFB, Texas.

James G. Roudebush, command surgeon, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

'Dangerous Skies' portrays life in Air Force

WASHINGTON (AFNS - 980008) — Airmen on duty in the United States and around the world are the stars in "Dangerous Skies: Inside the U.S. Air Force." The two-hour special presentation debuts at 8 p.m. EST, Jan. 11, on the Arts and Entertainment Network.

Filmed from February through June 1997, the program looks at the Air Force from the inside, trying to get a sense of what it feels like to be in Air Force squadrons, especially when airmen are separated from families. A&E also interviewed family members.

Bill Kurtis hosts the program with close-up looks at two fighter squadrons: the Lightning Lancers, an F-16 combat squadron in Saudi Arabia, as it flies patrols over Southern Iraq, and the White Knights, an A-10 combat squadron, as it practices war games inside the United States.

"Dangerous Skies" also lives with the pilots of a stealth fighter squadron in New Mexico and a helicopter rescue squadron

Air Force Core Competencies



Air and Space Superiority Global Attack Rapid Global Mobility Precision Engagement Information Superiority Agile Combat Support

Speed, flexibility and the global nature of its reach and perspective distinguish the Air Force's execution of its core competencies

who are prepared to rescue downed pilots deep inside enemy territory. Viewers can see the pilots at home, during training and on combat missions.

Cameras follow an F-16 Fighting Falcon to the border with Iraq and show an A-10 Thunderbolt in a dogfight high above the Mojave Desert. The guides on this two-hour airborne adventure are 16 flyers and fighters who share their views, feelings and fears as they patrol dangerous skies around the world.

The program will be repeated Jan. 17 and 24 at 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. EST both days.

Videophones give morale calls new look

by Tech. Sgt. Joe Bela
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFNS - 980015) — Deployed airmen in Europe can now reach for more than a telephone to place a morale call home.

Videophones, available at most U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases and deployed locations, now give airmen the chance to see and speak to family members around the world.

"The concept is based on a low-cost solution for providing video morale calls to deployed airmen and their family members," said Capt. Dan Birrenkott, branch chief for airborne and satellite communications systems at Headquarters USAFE.

"It uses a piece of equipment costing less than \$500 that integrates with a standard DSN (Defense Switched Network) line, and a television," Birrenkott said.

The idea of using video phones for morale purposes originated at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. "It started at the Air Force Communications Agency. They developed a test and implementation plan as well as the concept of operations," Birrenkott said. "They released (the concept) to the field back in November 1997 and we took the idea and made it a reality for USAFE."

Birrenkott said troop morale was the main reason for acquiring videophones.

"We know we have a high ops (operations) tempo. We know we do a lot of deployments and many are in the neighborhood of 120 days," he said. "That's a long time to be separated from your family. Most deployed sites already have standard morale telephone capability. What we wanted to do was make it even better.

"Like they say, 'A picture is worth a thousand words.' This way people get to see their spouses and kids rather than just talk to them," he added.

Although easy to install, videophones present problems not associated with a typical morale call.

"If you know how to connect a VCR to a television, you can install a video phone," said Senior Airman David Hovland, video-conferencing technician at

USAFE Computer Systems Squadron.

"It takes about five minutes. A phone jack plugs into a small box consisting of a small camera and microphone, and the box plugs into the TV," Hovland said. "The problem is, the same standard technology must be at both ends for the videophone system to work."

"Of course, most family members won't have the equipment at home. That's why bases have a facility set up for family members to take part in the calls," Birrenkott said.

"When" is also a big question mark with video morale calls. Family members and deployed airmen will have to schedule a time to place the call.

"This will require coordination at both ends — at the main operating base and at the deployed site. Bases will have to manage an appointment system so calls can be completed efficiently," Birrenkott said.

Services units, through agencies like the family support center, are handling the program at main operating bases. "Family members can also ... get help through the member's chain of command or first sergeant," he added.

Communications officials are also looking to the future of videophones in USAFE.

"We plan to integrate them with our deployable communications ... packages," Birrenkott said. "We intend to put video phones with units that deploy comm so that when we set up a new site, it's already packaged and ready to go.

"They may not be with the first wave because that's when command and control goes, but in later waves as we establish the deployment site," he added.

Some organizations have taken a different approach by purchasing their own videophones. Although typically located at a family support center or a communications unit, "there are some cases ... where units with a high ops tempo ... are buying their own equipment," Birrenkott said.

"The most important thing for people to understand is that video phones are a new concept. Like anything new, there may be some bumps as we get it established," he said. "I ask people not to be discouraged. Continue trying to use it. It's an inexpensive but effective way to improve morale for people on long

deployments.”

Videophones are available or will soon be available at the following European locations: England, Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Fairford, Croughton, Germany, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Italy, Aviano, Vicenza, Jacotente, San Vito, France, Istres, Hungary, Taszar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Turkey, Incirlik, Croatia, Zagreb.

More details, including a listing of people to call at each participating videophone location, is available on-line at <http://www.usafe.af.mil/direct/foas/css/vi/policies/>. Access to information from the Air Force Communication Agency is also available through the site. (USAFE News Service)

Christmas Eve services with Air Force trainees

by Staff Sgt. John Redue
Lackland Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980010) — Two-hundred forty airmen huddled together in combat field conditions as the chaplain conducted Christmas Eve services. The night was clear and cold, but brightened by the airmen's flashlights illuminating hymnals.

This was a special Christmas service for these airmen. It was their first in the Air Force. They are basic trainees at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, participating in the field training exercise on Dec. 24.

Christmas Eve is a normal training day for basic trainees, and these airmen spent the night in the mock forward deployed training site known as the “Scorpion's Nest.” This is the first year Christmas Eve services were held at the site.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas Olszyk, who conducted the services, arrived in his Battle Dress Uniform and used a cardboard box for an altar. Donning a flowing white robe, Olszyk addressed the group.

“This gathering will be something you will remember the rest of your lives,” Olszyk said. “You and those with you out here in this field under the stars.

“Look at the stars above you, these are the same stars that were in the sky on the

night of Jesus' birth,” Olszyk said. “As much as things have changed since he was born, some things are still the same.”

As the group listened and sang songs, the separation from loved ones seemed to wane as the spirit of togetherness grew. Coughs and sniffles became tears of emotion.

With heads bowed and everyone holding hands, airmen prayed for their families and friends, for freedom and peace, and for the strength and determination to complete basic training.

“This was a beautiful service,” said Airman Max Sherwood of the 331st Training Squadron. “This is my first Christmas away from home, and this will definitely be something I will always remember.

“My family always gets together for food and gifts at Christmas, but this service made me realize that Christmas is a lot more than just gifts. It's about Jesus.”

“I loved the service because even though I'm away from my family, I saw so many people who are making sacrifices for me on Christmas,” said Airman Heather Hulke of the 321st TRS. “The chaplain, the instructors and others who sacrificed time away from their families for us. I have never seen people give so willingly, and it makes me proud to be among them.”

Airmen Christina Van Kerevelen and Garrett Simson, both of the 321st TRS, had been away from home during Christmas before, but both said this was a Christmas service to remember.

“The service was put together well, and it gave us a chance to come together and support each other during the holidays, which can be a really rough time for some,” Simson said.

“I really appreciated the chaplain coming out and I saw Colonel Steele there with us through the entire service,” Van Kerevelen said. Col. Toreaser Steele is the commander of the 737th Training Group, which is responsible for the training of basic trainees.

“She was out in the cold, wearing BDUs just like the rest of us,” Van Kerevelen said. “It really meant a lot to me to see her out with us on Christmas Eve.”

As the night drew to a close, the chaplain passed out homemade cookies to the airmen. The cookies had been donated for the airmen to have Christmas Eve.

Though the cookies were quickly gone, the spirit of peace, love and giving lasted long into the night and into Christmas Day.

Air Force solicits applications for 2000 Olympics

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS - 980019) — The Air Force is accepting applications for the World Class Athlete Program for the 2000 Olympics. The program, established in 1995, is designed to assist military athletes, active duty, Guard and Reserve, who have the athletic ability to compete at the Olympic level.

Selected athletes are assigned to the program for up to 24 months prior to the summer Olympics. During that time, they concentrate solely on preparing for the Olympics and making the team. Participants normally stay at their present duty station, but may be relocated to ensure access to adequate athletic training facilities and to be closer to their sport's national coaching staff.

Prospective candidates can send the Air Force Form 303, Request for Specialized Sports Training, to HQ AFSVA/SVP, 10100 Reunion Place, Suite 4, San Antonio TX 78216-4138. Contact your local fitness center for assistance and more information. (Courtesy of AETC News Service)

*‘This country
will not be a
good place for
any of us to
live in unless
we make it a
good place for
all of us
to live in.’*

— Theodore Roosevelt